MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

31 MARCH 1983

Syria-Lebanon

Soviet Warning -- It is time for Israel to stop "playing with fire" and its "criminal designs" against Syria must be foiled, a Soviet Government statement carried by TASS asserted. Citing "alarming reports" of Israeli preparations for a military strike against Syria and claiming that heightened anti-Syrian "war hysteria" in Israel is being accompanied by renewed U.S. aid, the statement warned that Syria does not stand alone.

Israel on Military-Political Situation -- Israeli political sources view the Soviet warning to Israel not to attack Syria as a signal to the United States that no arrangement in the region is possible without the Soviet Union, Jerusalem radio reported. Despite recent "signs," the "major assessment" in Israel is that war between Israel and Syria will not break out in the coming period, the sources contended. Noting that presidential envoy Philip Habib would shortly return to Washington "emptyhanded," the radio said some Israeli political commentators consider that the Lebanon negotiations can be concluded only through a meeting between Prime Minister Menahem Begin and President Reagan. Israel has not yet reached the limit of its concessions on security arrangements and a compromise could be found over Major Sa'd Haddad's future role, the commentators said.

Tripartite Negotiations, Diplomacy -- Since the tripartite negotiations are currently "frozen," the 25th round of negotiations in Qiryat Shemona on 31 March is not expected to produce any important achievement, Beirut radio reported. The Voice of Lebanon reported that after a 31 March meeting between Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Soldatov and Foreign Minister Elie Salim, Soldatov described their talks as "important" but declined to say whether Salim had asked for Soviet help to secure the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon. Earlier, a Lebanese Government source disclosed that Saudi Arabia is seeking to convene an Arab "minisummit" attended by the leaders of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the PLO to agree on a plan to coordinate stands on the Lebanese and Palestinian issues, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported citing "unconfirmed press information."

Military, Security Situation -- The IDF used tank and cannon fire against a squad of "terrorists" hiding in Dayr al-Harf village north of the Beirut-Damascus highway, Jerusalem radio reported citing the IDF spokesman. Claiming that the squad responsible for a recent attack on an Israeli patrol near Beirut came from the village, the radio said the Israelis opened fire after another "terrorist" squad was spotted crossing the Beirut River. Although the radio did not say the fighting involved the Syrians, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that the IDF traded fire with Syrian and Palestinian positions in the area. The radio also cited reports of further Syrian-Israeli exchanges of automatic fire in the Al-Biqa' Valley.

Israel

Land Day Incidents -- Prime Minister Begin's Arab affairs adviser stated that this year's "Land Day" passed "relatively quietly" as compared with last year, according to ITIM. He noted that although some incidents occurred such as stonethrowing and flying PLO flags, public order was mainly disrupted by youths. According to a related Jerusalem radio report, 11 people were injured by stonethrowing in Ad-Duhaysham.

PLO Affairs

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Damascus from Kuwait following talks with Amir Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, according to KUNA and Radio Monte Carlo. During an address at a Syrian rally commemorating Land Day reported by Radio Monte Carlo, 'Arafat attacked the "settlement plans" underway in the region and declared that "the revolution will continue until all of Palestine is liberated." 'Arafat revealed that he had received a Soviet envoy less than a week ago who had asked him about his stand on President Reagan's peace plan, to which the PLO leader replied: "What the United States and Israel failed to obtain from us through war they will not obtain through maneuvers and by beating about the bush." On the issue of POW exchanges, 'Arafat stressed the "irrevocable decision" of the PLO Executive Committee that the eight Israeli prisoners will be released only if all the detainees in Ansar camp are released.

In another development PLO deputy military commander Khalil al-Wazir arrived in Amman to participate in 'Arafat's talks with Jordanian officials which are expected to begin on 31 March, the Jordanian paper AD-DUSTUR reported on 31 March.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Meetings -- Habib Chatti, secretary general of the Islamic Conference Organization, announced that the extraordinary session of the Jerusalem Committee scheduled for 3 April has been postponed until 10 April due to current commitments of the committee members and their desire to attend the meeting given its importance, SPA reported. In another development the meeting of the Arab seven-member committee has been canceled and will be replaced by an emergency Arab summit that is expected to be held 10-15 April, WAKH disclosed. According to a related INA report, Moroccan envoys will shortly begin delivering letters from Morocco's King Hassan II to Arab leaders inviting them to attend the emergency Arab summit. Official Moroccan sources said the proposed summit will discuss the current Arab situation and the future Arab action plan in light of visits paid by the seven-member committee to the UN Security Council permanent member states, INA added.

Jordanian-Omani Talks -- Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim and Omani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah discussed Israel's settlement policy, current Arab affairs and bilateral relations, Amman television reported.

Algeria

Algerian troops recently clashed with Polisario guerrillas returning to their base in southern Algeria with heavy equipment and vehicles supplied by Libya, AFP reported citing the Spanish paper DIARIO 16. Several people were killed in the fighting, which started when the Algerians ordered the Saharan guerrillas to drive back to Libya, the paper said.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 063 31 March 1983

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Defense Ministry Delegation Leaves for CSSR C 1
Trade Union Leader Departs for USSR 30 March C 1
AFP: Kabul-Heratan Highway Cut by Guerrillas C 1
Briefs: Soviet Transport Protocol C 1

BANGLADESH

South Asian Secretaries Hold Meeting in Dhaka D 1
Doha Inaugurates Session D 1
Foreign Ministers To Meet D 1
Meeting Ends 29 March D 1
Communique Cited D 2
Ershad Outlines Preconditions for Political Talks D 2
Doha Set To Visit United States in April D 3

INDIA

High-Level PRC Delegation Arrives in New Delhi E 1
Leader Urges Better Ties E 1
Reportage on Gandhi's Activities in Assam E 1
Visit Continues; Explosion Reported E 2
Carrying of Firearms Banned in Amritsar E 2

PAKISTAN

Reportage on French Minister's Visit 28-31 Mar F 1
Cheysson Press Conference F 1
AFP Report F 1
Zia, Cheysson Meeting F 2
Cheysson, Yaqub Khan Remarks F 2
Cheysson: Talks Extremely Useful F 3
French Minister Departs F 3
Scrutiny To Continue for Dailies, Periodicals F 3

IRAN

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,264 I 1
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Holds Meeting on Gulf Oil Spill I 1
Iraq Held Responsible I 2
Finance Minister Meets Syrian Economic Delegation I 2
Cabinet Reviews Regional Issues, Syrian Relations I 2
Tudeh Party Addresses Open Letter to Authorities [NVOI] I 3
Kordestan Official Comments on Recent Clashes I 4

DEFENSE MINISTRY DELEGATION LEAVES FOR CSSR

LD310000 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Chief os Staff Major General (Baba Jan) left for Czechoslovakia today at the head of a delegation from the Ministry of National Defense at the invitation of CSSR Government. A number of officers from the Ministry of National Defense saw the delegation off at Kabul airport.

TRADE UNION LEADER DEPARTS FOR USSR 30 MARCH

LD310038 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1730 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Satar Pordeli, chairman of the Central Council of the DRA Trade Unions, left today for the USSR at the invitation of that country's professional unions. During the visit he will conclude a cooperation agreement between the two unions.

AFP: KABUL-HERATAN HIGHWAY CUT BY GUERRILLAS

OW301754 Paris AFP in English 1637 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Islamabad, March 30 (AFP) -- The Kabul-Heratan highway has been closed for the past several days in the Salang area because of intensified guerrilla raids on the strategic road linking Afghanistan with the Soviet Union, Afghan resistance sources said today.

State-run Radio Kabul, monitored here, admitted the closure last week. Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad also affirmed the rebels' claim, but could not say if the road was blocked following new guerrilla attacks or was caused by an avalanche as announced by the regime. However, the closure of the highway has caused "extreme fuel shortage" in the Afghan captial, the resistance source said, adding that thousand of trucks were stranded without fuel in Kabul over the week end.

"Diesel was not available at all" in the city, they said, quoting a driver arriving in Peshawar, north-west Pakistan, from Kabul today. Up to 200-300 afghanies for a gallon had to be paid against the normal price of 40-50 afghanies.

Salang tunnel was closed after a major accident involving military convoys late last year in which several hundred people reportedly died.

BRIEFS

SOVIET TRANSPORT PROTOCOL -- A protocol on joint transport loading and unloading by an Afghan-Soviet company to be called [name indistinct] was concluded today in Kabul. The protocol was signed by the deputy minister of [word indistinct] in port affairs of the Ministry of Commerce and by the deputy head of the Soviet transport affairs union. They exchanged relevant documents. Minister Commerce Mohammed Khan Jalalar was present on the occasion. Under the protocol the [name indistinct] company will be activated with a capital of 70 million afghani, 60 percent of which belongs to the Afghan side. The company will facilitate and speed up the delivery of goods and other transport affairs to the major commerce and transit ports of the DRA in the (Hayratan) port. Easy and suitable conditions for payments, social services, schools, hospitals, and others for the welfare of Afghan workers and personnel in (Hayratan) port are dealt with in the protocol. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Mar 83 LD]

SOUTH ASIAN SECRETARIES HOLD MEETING IN DHAKA

Doha Inaugurates Session

SK281406 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr A.R. Shamsu Doha, inaugurated the fourth meeting of the foreign secretaries of seven South Asian countries in Dhaka today. Speaking on the occasion, the Bangladesh foreign minister said the countries of the region stand united in a common commitment and the common cause of immeasurable significance to their nearly 1 billion people. He said we are committed to improve the quality of life of our people and to usher in a lasting peace in our region. The overriding objectives of ours is to ameliorate the welfare of the people of the region in an environment of peace and harmony and to create a climate of trust and good will. Giving the background behind the idea of such a forum as visualized by Bangladesh, the foreign minister said that the prime objective of it is to forge a strong regional cooperation, capable of contributing toward mutual trust, understanding, and sympathetic appreciation of the national aspirations of the countries of South Asia.

Expressing his confidence about the success of the current meeting, Mr Doha said the deliberations of the participants go a long way in giving the forum a concrete shape. The meeting, among other things, will decide the modalities for launching the South Asian regional council and for recommending of precise time, venue, and agenda for the political level meeting.

Earlier, Bangladesh was unanimously elected chairman of the current meeting.

Foreign Ministers To Meet

BK290103 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 28 Mar 83

[Excerpt] The foreign secretaries of seven Southeast [as heard] Asian countries beginning their fourth meeting in Dhaka today decided to hold the meeting of the foreign ministers in New Delhi some time between the last week of July and the first week of August this year. Disclosing this, an official spokesman said the foreign ministers meeting in New Delhi will be preceeded by preparatory meeting of the foreign secretaries.

The foreign secretaries meeting also decided to endorse the report of the committee of the (?whole) after careful consideration.

Meeting Ends 29 March

BK300701 Dhaka BSS in English 0633 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Dhaka, March 30 (BSS) -- The fourth meeting of the foreign secretaries of the seven South Asian countries concluded here yesterday with the firm conviction that regional cooperation forum would open up mutually beneficial relations among the member states.

Addressing a joint press conference on conclusion of groundwork meeting on South Asian regional cooperation (SARC) Tuesday, the secretaries expressed the hope that the forum would contribute to "confidence building" and help create "climate of good will, friendship, and understanding" among the member countries for meaningful cooperation.

Earlier, the officials agreed that the foreign ministers of the seven nations will meet in New Delhi between the end of July and early August, tentatively August 1-3, to formally launch the forum for regional cooperation.

Speaking at the concluding session, chairman of the meeting and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Ataul Karim described the Dhaka meeting as "a momentous" one for it signaled the evolutionary process towards the structured regional cooperation in South Asia.

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka are members of the proposed forum.

Communique Cited

BK301431 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1705 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The fourth meeting of the foreign secretaries of the seven South Asian countries held in Dhaka has fully endorsed the recommendations of the committee of the whole. This was contained in a joint communique issued in Dhaka this afternoon at the successful conclusion of the meeting. The meeting also decided to recommend adoption of an integrated program of action by the foreign ministers of the countries of the region at their meeting scheduled to be held in New Delhi between the last week of July and the first week of August this year.

The communique said the report of the whole committee recommended, among other things, an integrated program of action comprising activities and (?measures) for short and long term cooperation and defined modalities for its implementation of [words indistinct] by the technical committees.

Recognizing the progress that has already been achieved in developing a framework for (?structured) regional cooperation in South Asia, the meeting [words indistinct] that necessary preparatory works have been completed and the (?stage) for launching implementation of regional cooperation activities has now been [word indistinct]. They also agreed to [words indistinct] to identify (?increased) areas of cooperation.

After the concluding session, the chairman of the present meeting, Foreign Secretary Mr Ataul Karim of Bangladesh, told a news conference that the meeting successfully accomplished its task 1 day ahead of schedule. It was possible due to sincere understanding and cooperation among the participants.

The foreign secretaries of the seven South Asian countries paid a courtesy call on the chief martial law administrator, Lieutenant General H.M. Ershad, in Dhaka this evening. The foreign minister, A.R. Shamsud Doha, held a receptipn this evening for the leaders and the members of the delegation.

ERSHAD OUTLINES PRECONDITIONS FOR POLITICAL TALKS

BK301021 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Dhaka, March 30 (AFP) -- Military ruler General Hussain Mohammad Ershad today laid down preconditions to the holdings of a proposed national dialogue with politicians on the country's constitutional and governmental future.

The issues of diplomacy, defence, finance and the independence of judiciary must be kept above political controversy, the 53-year-old general said in a signed article "The Nation Must Ponder," published in two newspapers here today.

"Before political dialogue (starts) and consitutions are written, there must be agreement by all parties on such national issues," he said.

"If all parties agree on these ground rules, democracy can return and flower in Bangladesh. If these points are not agreed to, then democracy will not return or last if it is tried."

General Ershad came to power a year ago after toppling the civilian-elected government of President Abdus Sattar. He described the arrangements as "preconstitutional agreements" and said they must be the basis of the proposed dialogue. The dialogue was supposed to have started after the 13th anniversary of national independence, celebrated on March 26, but as yet no exact date or agenda has been fixed.

However, most of the country's 70-odd political parties are gearing themselves for action following last week's announcement by the military government that it would lift restrictions on indoor political activities from tomorrow to allow the parties to discuss General Ershad's dialogue offer.

Parties and alliances are contemplating holding formal meetings of executive committees next month for the first time since General Ershad imposed martial law on March 24 last year.

Most politicians refused to comment on whether they would participate in the dialogue, saying the decision would be taken at their party meeting.

Meanwhile, the ousted Bangladesh National Party, founded by late President Ziaur Rahman and now headed by deposed President Sattar, is facing a serious split. A group of former party leaders and ministers will hold a meeting on Saturday against the present leadership. Reports indicated the group was led by former Information Minister Shamsul Huda Chowdhury who has connections with the present government.

DOHA SET TO VISIT UNITED STATES IN APRIL

BK271446 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1205 GMT 27 Mar 83

[Text] The foreign minister, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha, will pay an official visit to the United States toward the later part of next month at the invitation of the U.S. secretary of state, Mr George Shultz. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dhaka today that the foreign minister will meet Mr George Shultz on the (?28th) of next month. He said that the two leaders will review the entire gamut of bilateral relations. Major regional and international issues are also expected to come up for discussion. During his stay in the U.S. capital, Mr A.R. Shamsud Doha is expected to meet many senators and congressmen.

HIGH-LEVEL PRC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI

BK310442 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] A high-level 11-member delegation from China has arrived in New Delhi. The delegation, which has come at the invitation of the India-China Society, will visit Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat, and places of interest during its 2-week stay in the country. The delegation is likely to call on the prime minister on the 2d of next month and will have discussions with members of parliament on matters of mutual interest.

Leader Urges Better Ties

BK310448 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] The leader of a high-level Chinese good-will delegation, Mr Chu Tunan, has said that India and China enjoy a lot of common culture and traditions. Every effort should be made to improve the cultural relations between the two countries.

He was speaking at a function in New Delhi last night. The function was organized by the India-China Society in honor of the visiting delegation.

The secretary general of the society, Mr S.S. Mohapatra, member of parliament, said that the visit of the high-level delegation will further contribute toward normalization of relations between the two countries. The Chinese good-will delegation will be visiting various parts of India for the next fortnight.

REPORTAGE ON GANDHI'S ACTIVITIES IN ASSAM

BK301613 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Prime Minister Gandhi has begun a 3-day tour of Assam with a visit to a relief camp at (Chalabela) near Bongaigaon in Gaolpara District today. She discussed the problems with the people there and inquired about the assistance provided to them. Gandhi was received at the camp by state Governor Prakash Mehrotra, Chief Minister Hiteshwar Saikia, and other high-ranking civil and police officials. Later she reached Gauhati where she addressed a meeting of Congress-I members of legislative assembly and party workers at Dispur. Gandhi called upon them to work unitedly to face the present situation in the state. She urged them to help in whatever way possible for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people.

Later the prime minister had a meeting with the governor, the chief minister, and the cabinet members and discussed the steps taken to provide relief to the people.

On arrival this afternoon in Gauhati, a number of representatives of political parties and various organizations submitted memorandums for speedy rehabilitation of the people affected in the recent disturbances. The Assam Youth Congress-I, in a memorandum, requested the prime minister to make all efforts for an amicable settlement for the foreign nationals issue. The plains tribal council of Assam emphasized the urgency of stabilizing the situation in the state. The newly formed United Democratic Front of the opposition parties in their memorandum put forward an 11-point suggestion for achieving normalcy in the state. Others who met the prime minister include representatives of Jamait-i-Islam-i-Hind, All Assam Minority Students Union, and All Assam Scheduled Castes Youth Council.

Gandhi is scheduled to visit some more relief camps in Darrang, Nowgong, and Lakhimpur Districts during her stay there.

Visit Continues; Explosion Reported

BK310326 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Excerpts] Mrs Gandhi last night had discussions with the members of the Assam cabinet in Gauhati over the latest situation in the state and the relief measures being taken for the affected people. She also reviewed the law-and-order situation in the state. The state chief minister, Mr Hiteshwar Saikia, submitted a memorandum on behalf of the Council of Ministers. The memorandum has expressed the hope that an early solution to the foreign nationals issue will be arrived at under the leadership and guidance of the prime minister. It expressed satisfaction at the center's announcement that the doors for a negotiated settlement of the issue have been kept open.

It also referred to the various steps taken by the state government to provide relief to the affected people. The nonrecurring expenditure for carrying out various relief measures will amount to 570 million rupees and it is hoped that the center will meet the requirement. The memorandum listed the problems relating to the development of Assam. It also emphasized that the influx from Bangladesh must be effectively tackled in the interest of national security and to prevent social tension.

Meanwhile, official reports say that 10 persons were killed and several injured when a bomb exploded in a market in (Hajjo) in Kamrup District yesterday afternoon. The police are investigating. Another bomb also exploded in the residence of a government official in the south (Sarania) area of Gauhati last night.

CARRYING OF FIREARMS BANNED IN AMRITSAR

BK301151 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] New Delhi, March 30 (AFP) -- Authorities in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, in the Punjab, today banned the carrying of firearms and other offensive weapons throughout Amritsar District, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA reported. The ban, issued by the district magistrate, took immediate effect and lasts a month. Police and military personnel were exempted and Sikhs were permitted to carry their religious "kirpans" (knife).

Authorities banned the sale of arms and ammunition in the district for an indefinite period on Sunday.

No reason was given for either ban, but it is thought by observers to have been prompted by the recent activities of Sikh extremists supporting the Sikh Akali Dal Party's campaign for greater autonomy.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner Sardar Singh denied that barricades erected around the Golden Temple to check "anti-social elements" have been removed on the ultimation of Akali Dal President Sant Harchand Singh Longowal on Saturday. THE PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) quoted him as saying that barricades removed yesterday at certain points to allow a Sikh religious procession to pass had now been reinstalled for "traffic control."

He said the barrier pole on the road leading to the Golden Temple had been damaged by a vehicle belonging to the para-military central reserve police force and was removed as it was not functioning properly. "Checking of anti-social elements at this point is still continuing as before," he was quoted as saying.

While issuing the ultimatum, Sant Longowal had warned that if the barricades were not removed by the authorities within the next 24 hours, his party volunteers would remove them. "The Sikhs never tolerated such barricades during the Moghul period nor will we do it now," he declared in an address to a Sikh religious congregation at the Golden Temple.

REPORTAGE ON FRENCH MINISTER'S VISIT 28-31 MAR

Cheysson Press Conference

BK291642 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson has said that Pakistan and France are holding negotiations on an agreement for 1983 for financing a number of projects in Pakistan from French assistance. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, he said under the annual financial protocol, France is providing economic assistance to Pakistan for various projects. He said France supports increased Pakistani exports to the EEC, particularly to France, so that the balance of trade, which is currently in France's favor, can be improved.

The French external relations minister said he had wide-ranging disussions with Pakistan Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan on bilateral relations and international issues in Islamabad today. He also had talks with Finance Minister Ghulam Ishaq Khan on economic issues. He said that during the talks on bilateral relations it was felt that the two countries should not only promote economic cooperation but should develop cultural cooperation.

In reply to a question, the French external relations minister said that during the Islamabad talks, views were also exchanged on cooperation between the two countries in the nuclear field. Talks were also held during the meeting on a reprocessing plant. He said talks between the two countries are continuing and it is not appropriate to make any comment at this stage.

In reply to another question, he said they had also exchanged views on a future nuclear powerplant for Pakistan, for which Pakistan had called for tenders. He said every country, including Pakistan, has the right to access to the latest scientific developments including nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. His country will play its role in the efforts being made in this regard.

Referring to his talks with the Pakistan foreign minister on Afghanistan, Cheysson said that on this issue also the two countries have an identical stand. We want a political solution to this problem to be sought so that the foreign troops will be withdrawn and the Afghan refugees will be able to return to their homes and determine their future themselves. He said that his country hopes the efforts being made by the UN secretary general will prove useful. He said the occupation of any country by any superpower under any pretext is unacceptable.

The French external relations minister said that during the Islamabad talks we also have considered the appeal made at the recent nonaligned summit for initiating negotiations on a new economic order and a North-South dialogue. He said the French Government will refer these (?economic issues) to the six industrialized nations of the EEC for serious consideration.

In reply to a question, the French external relations minister said that his country will extend maximum support to Pakistan at the aid Pakistan consortium session to be held in Paris next month. Facilities regarding the program for rescheduling the repayment of debts will particularly be supported.

AFP Report

OW291830 Paris AFP in English 1800 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] Islamabad, March 29 (AFP) -- France is considering selling a nuclear power plant to Pakistan, which has a right to nuclear technology for peaceful purposes "like any other country," French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson said here today.

Mr Cheysson, on an official visit, told a press conference that France was prepared to deliver a nuclear reactor to any country willing to place it under peaceful-use restrictions designated by the International Atomic Energy Commission (IAEC). But he said that that condition of sale would not apply to the purchasing country's other nuclear facilities, a point on which the United States insists, and which Washington has cited in refusing to sell nuclear facilities to Pakistan.

Mr Cheysson said he and Pakistani officials had discussed their "past differences" over an aborted nuclear supply contract, and "the future nuclear plant for which a call for bids has been made by the Pakistani Government."

In 1976, France broke a contract with Pakistan for the supply of a nuclear fuel treatment plant at Chabma, 200 kms (125 miles) south of Islamabad. Pakistan at the time accused Paris of succumbing to pressure from the United States, which suspected Pakistan of seeking to develop atomic weapons.

"We decided," Mr Cheysson said, "that discussions should keep on going...and that I would say no more about that."

The French company Framatone has been authorized by the French Government to tender a bid on a 900 megawatt reactor that Pakistan wants built on the Chasma site.

On other matters, Mr Cheysson said he and Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan had discussed Afghanistan at length. "We denounce and condemn the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan," he said, "just as the French condemn...the presence of Vietnamese troops in Cambodia or the presence of South Africans in Namibia..." But he added that France had "nothing to recommend and propose...we don't belong to the region."

On the subject of Franco-Pakistani trade, Mr Cheysson said he would -- at the April 18 meeting of the international Pakistani aid consortium in Paris -- push for an increase in financial assistance to Pakistan and a rescheduling of Pakistan's foreign debt.

Zia, Cheysson Meeting

BK291732 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 29 Mar 83

[Text] The French foreign minister called on the president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in Rawalpindi this evening. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest. Mr Cheysson conveyed to the president good wishes from President Mitterrand of France. The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, was also present.

Cheysson, Yaqub Khan Remarks

BK300712 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Excerpt] French Minister for External Relations Claude Cheysson has underscored the need for greater contact between Pakistan and France for the benefit of the people of the two countries. He was speaking at a dinner hosted in his honor by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan last night.

Cheysson said the low level of economic cooperation between the two countries is proof of the fact that the economic cooperation between the two countries is not as it should be. The French external relations minister said his country holds in high esteem Pakistan's services for the cause of the Nonaligned Movement. His country will voice support for the appeal made at the New Delhi Nonaligned Summit Conference at the next Williamsburg industrialized nations' conference.

Noting his appreciation for the sympathy and hospitality extended to the Afghan refugees by the people and Government of Pakistan, Cheysson said very few nations have treated refugees as well as Pakistan.

Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan expressed gratitude for France's understanding and support for Pakistan's position on the situation in Afghanistan. He said Pakistan is most grateful for the assistance France and other countries are providing Afghan refugees. He expressed the hope that Pakistan, with the aid and support of its friends, will continue to shoulder the heavy burden of looking after the Afghan refugees until a political solution to the Afghan problem is achieved. The foreign minister expressed Pakistan's appreciation for France's positive and constructive role toward establishing peace and tranquillity in the troubled and tormented world. He also expressed gratitude for France's generous assistance for Pakistan's developmental requirements. He said France has unequivocally expressed concern over problems of the Third World, which finds expression in its support for the cause of the developing countries at the international forums. At these forums, France has underscored the principle that the prosperity of the rich nations and the progress of the developing ones are interlinked. The foreign minister said it is this viewpoint which Pakistan has been advocating at international forums over the years and which it emphatically advocated at the recent Nonaligned Summit Conference.

Cheysson: Talks Extremely Useful

BK301619 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] French External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson has described his talks with Pakistani leaders on various issues in Islamabad as extremely useful. Talking to newsmen at Lahore airport today, he said that his country desires to promote close relations with Pakistan in various fields.

When asked what role his country can play in inducing the Soviet Union to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan, the French external relations minister said that his country believes in respect for independence and human rights. He said France desires economic and cultural relations with the Soviet Union. However, this does not change the French stand on basic issues.

Cheysson later called on the Punjab governor, Lieutenant General Ghulam Jilani Khan, and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest. He also attended a luncheon hosted in his honor by the Punjab governor and toured the town.

French Minister Departs

BK301729 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The French foreign minister left Lahore tonight for Paris at the end of his visit to Pakistan.

SCRUTINY TO CONTINUE FOR DAILIES, PERIODICALS

BK301627 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] It has been officially announced in Karachi today that in accordance with the order issued by the martial law administrator of Zone C on 23 February under Martial Law Regulation 49, all dailies and periodicals will continue to be presented to the information department for scrutiny as usual until further notice.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE NO 1,264

LD301915 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Communique No 1,264 of Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. During the past 24 hours, the artillery fire of the combat units of Islam pounded the enemy's positions, fortifications, troops and military equipment on various battlefronts. The fire exchange was relatively more intense on the western fronts of the country.

At 2300 on 28 March the enemy launched some operations in the Sumar sector, pretending to be launching an offensive, but the enemy was promptly confronted by our forces and crushed. In these operations two enemy tanks were destroyed and a large number of Iraqi troops were either killed or wounded.

Yesterday, our forces stationed in the border region of (Tamarchin) opened fire on the Iraqi mercenaries' positions and inflicted some losses on them. The fire of the combatants of Islam in the Shur-e Sharin sector destroyed three group trenches of the Saddamist forces and killed a number of Iraqi troops. The fire of our forces in the Marivan sector pounded the Saddamists' positions in the vicinity of (Harginah) and Biara. A bridge was also damaged along the Khormal highway. The city of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab came under the artillery fire of the Iraqi mercenaries from 1300-1400 yesterday, destroying two houses.

On the southern fronts of the country yesterday, our forces defended the regions under their protection. The fire of our combatants on these fronts pounded the enemy's supply routes and bridges, preventing their traffic. An enemy unit tried to penetrate the positions of our forces in the northwestern region of (Sharhani), but the vigilance and reaction of our warriors forced the enemy unit to retreat after suffering some losses.

Yesterday, fire exchanges continued between our units stationed on the banks of Arvand Rud and the enemy forces on the other side of the river. This fire exchange halted enemy movements and destroyed two slit trenches, one machinegun emplacement, one observation post, and one of the aggressors' vehicles. Yesterday, after some reconnaissance operations, a group of warriors from the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic of Iran opened fire and destroyed the radar dish at the Iraqi missile site in the Al-Faw region. These warriors also opened fire on the enemy concentration point in the same region, which set fire to eight of the enemy's slit trenches and foxholes and killed at least 30 of the mercenaries.

[Signed] Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran

HASHEMI-RAFSANJANI HOLDS MEETING ON GULF OIL SPILL

LD301151 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Tehran, March 30 (IRNA) -- Deputy prime minister and head of the Organisation for Protection of Environment, Mirza Taheri, in a meeting with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today reported about issues related to contamination of Persian Gulf waters by oil spill from Iran's Nowruz oil field. The Majlis speaker provided him with the necessary guidelines.

The Persian Gulf water contamination resulted from oil spill of Iranian oil well hit by Iraqi fire. Member countries of the Kuwait convention, the regional organisation for Persian Gulf marine environment protection, are scheduled to hold an emergency meeting on the issue, in Kuwait next week and Mirza Taheri will attend the meeting.

In a separate meeting the Majlis speaker received head of the religious bequest organisation and Deputy Prime Minister Etemadian. Etemadian informed the Majlis speaker of the forthcoming international Quran recitation competition as well as issues related to the organisation.

Iraq Held Responsible

GF310756 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Mar 83

[Text] In a statement made yesterday, Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, assistant at the Foreign Ministry for political affairs, held the Iraqi regime responsible for polluting the Persian Gulf waters through its bombing of the oil wells in the region. Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam expressed hope that this thoughtless behavior of the Iraqi regime would be an incentive to the region countries to stop supporting Saddam and the belief of the importance of endeavoring to achieve security and stability in the region.

FINANCE MINISTER MEETS SYRIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION

LD310229 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] The Syrian economic delegation headed by the economy and oil ministers of that country, this afternoon met and conferred with Iranian Minister of Economy and Finance Nemazi. The economic and international affairs undersecretary in the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the ambassadors of Iran and Syria were also present at this meeting. During the meeting, the expansion of economic relations between the two countries was discussed and views were exchanged.

Our country's minister of economy and finance made some remarks at this meeting and said: The relations between Iran and Syria are not based solely on commercial and economic interests. Rather our relations cover the vast fields of culture and politics too. While emphasizing the need for planning to exchange goods between the two countries, he expressed hope that Syria will present a more detailed and clearer program on repayment of the sums due to Iran.

On the basis of this report, the Syrian economy minister, while announcing the readiness of his respective country to export goods to Iran, expressed hope that priority will be given to Syria in certain transactions. The Syrian oil minister also referred to the expansion of relations between the two countries and said: We are determined to provide more facilities for the Iranians to visit Syria.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Syrian delegation invited our country's minister of economy and finance to visit Syria.

CABINET REVIEWS REGIONAL ISSUES, SYRIAN RELATIONS

LD301317 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] According to our correspondent's report, the Cabinet held a session this morning, chaired by Prime Minister Musavi. During this session, the country's current events and the region's political developments were reviewed.

Foreign Minister Velayati submitted a report on the steps taken toward expanding relations with Syria; discussions were held on the subject.

Regarding the efforts made for expanding relations with Third World countries, Mr Velayati reported that relations had been established with 15 Third World countries in the year ending on 20 March.

TUDEH PARTY ADDRESSES OPEN LETTER TO AUTHORITIES

TA291615 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian 1730 GMT 28 Mar 83

["Open letter" of Tudeh Party Central Committee to Islamic Republic of Iran authorities]

[Text] Dear compatriots: As anticipated, certain organizations and individuals, whose dependence on the counterrevolution and the U.S. and Israeli espionage services is beyond doubt, recent have embarked, in accordance with a specific plan, on publishing statements and leaflets in the name of the Iranian Tudeh Party and against the leader of the revolution, Imam Khomeyni, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. While cautioning all responsible officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, hereby in the name of freedom of thought and the promotion of justice and freedom of conscience, and also in order to inform public opinion and expose the treacherous plot and ploys by the elements of the counterrevolution and imperialism, we bring to the attention of the dear compatriots the original open letter by the Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party addressed to the Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities, which has been published in connection with the new plot by the counterrevolution and the elements of the CIA and Mosad.

Open letter by the Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party to responsible authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president, the speaker of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the president, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis, the president of the Supreme Court, the prime minister, and the revolution's prosecutor general: Following the illegal arrest of a group of leaders and members of the Iranian Tudeh Party, certain statements, leaflets, and posters with a divisive and antirevolutionary content and full of insults to the imam and the Islamic Republic of Iran are being distributed on a large scale by a single and organized center in Tehran and other towns, beneath which the forged signature of the Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party or the Iranian Tudeh Party has been placed.

The baseless rumor is being spread among the people bya single and wholly organized center that allegedly the Iranian Tudeh Party has changed its principled and revolutionary policy and that it has adopted the approach of subversive confrontation against the Islamic Republic and its leaders. Certain people are at work who, on the one hand, are intentionally making the workers discontent and angry and, on the other hand, are spreading the rumor that the Iranian Tudeh Party is engaged in planning disorders in factories. All these evil acts are only a prelude and laying the ground for hatching a large plot against the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Reports at hand indicate that the organizers of this plot, who without doubt are being directed by the CIA and other imperialist and Zionist espionage organizations, following the dissemination of these rumors, intend to engage in subversion and in setting fire to buildings and to blame the Iranian Tudeh Party for their crimes. Reportedly, some explosive devices have arrived in Tehran and several mosques have been emptied in readiness to be set ablaze.

The open letter of the Central Committee of the Iranian Tudeh Party then says: Gentlemen, officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, it seems that the disgraceful and fascist plot of setting fire to the Reichstag is on the verge of being repeated in our country as well.

As you are aware, in the past, a calculated plot was carried out against our party under the pretext of the incident of 4 February 1949 and the firing at the shah, and our party was declared illegal in connection with this incident.

Following this, in all the coup plots against Dr Mosaddeq's national government and also in all the coup plans against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Iranian Tudeh Party was one of the main targets of these plots. In these plans, the coupists and plotters strived to carry out a large subversive act, then blame the Iranian Tudeh Party and organize great crimes under this cover. The annihilated Qotbzadeh clearly confessed that his coup plan was designed on the basis of bombing Jamaran and blaming it on the Iranian Tudeh Party, afterward launching a bloody assault on all revolutionary forces.

The late Ayatollah Taleqani, in one of his remarks, had revealed that during the government of Dr Mosaddeq letters were prepared in a house belonging to one of the pro-court clergymen, carrying the signature of the Iranian Tudeh Party and addressed to the clergy, which contained strong threats. One of the writers of these forged letters had said that his hand ached because he wrote so much. These methods have a long historical record, and not only in our country.

Gentlemen, officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the plot being hatched is so broad and overt that you cannot be unaware of it. We hereby call upon you to adopt a sense of responsibility. We strongly deny with utter frankness any participation by the Iranian Tudeh Party in such instigations and activities and declare the party's innocence from such evil and conspiratorial acts. We ask you, by adopting a sense of responsibility, to bring the plotters to justice and not allow counterrevolutionary elements affiliated with the CIA and Mosad to expose the revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran to serious dangers.

We declare once more that the Iranian Tudeh Party, the experienced revolutionary party, is attached to the Iranian anti-imperialist and popular revolution with all its being. It will continue to struggle for the unity of genuine revolutionary forces and to support the Islamic Republic of Iran against imperialist provocations. On the basis of its principled policy, the Iranian Tudeh Party rejects any conspiratorial policy and measure and relies only on correct and popular methods of struggle.

This was the original open letter by the Tudeh Party Central Committee to the Islamic Republic of Iran's authorities.

KORDESTAN OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON RECENT CLASHES

GF301758 Tehran IRNA in English 1711 GMT 30 Mar 83

[Text] Sanandaj, March 30, IRNA -- In last week clashes the Islamic combatants killed 100 counter-revolutionaries, said Hashemi, political deputy of Kordestan's governor general.

Among those killed were ranking counter-revolutionaries, added Hashemi who was speaking in a ceremony commemorating the martyrs of Kordestan. He also expressed the hope that the counter-revolutionaries would be eradicated from that region.